# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:210
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2015
Retention Policy in Schools
Chaudhary Shri P.P.;Rai Shri Prem Das

**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) whether making Tenth Class board examination optional has adversely affected the quality of education and if so, whether the Government intends to reintroduce mandatory board exams for tenth class students;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented;
(c) whether the No-fail Policy under the Right to Education (RTE) Act has lowered learning outcomes and academic levels of the students and if so, the details thereof for the last three years, State/UT-wise, class and age-wise and remedial steps being taken/proposed to be taken in this regard; and
(d) whether the Government has received a report from Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) Committee on Assessment and Implementation of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation and if so, the outcome of the Report and action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

## Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.210 FOR 14.12.2015 REGARDING "RETENTION POLICY IN SCHOOLS" RAISED BY SHRI PREM DAS RAI AND SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY.

(a) & (b): Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) made 10th Class Board examination optional in 2011. Under the optional scheme of examination, those students who wish to leave CBSE system may opt for Board based examination, and those students who wish to remain with CBSE system may opt school based examination. After introduction of optional system in 2011, the first batch of students appeared in Class XII in 2013. The pass percentage of Class XII of 2013 batch was 82.10 for students who opted school based examination in Class-X in 2011. Whereas the pass percentage of students who opted Class X Board examination in 2011 was 82.12 in Class XII in 2013. This shows that the quality of education has not been affected adversely after making Class X Board examination optional. Presently, there is no proposal to re-introduce mandatory Board examination for tenth Class students.

(c): Section 16 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 states, "No child admitted in a school shall be held back in any class or expelled from school till the completion of elementary education." The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) was designated as National Academic Authority, which was mandated to carry out learning assessment regularly. Accordingly, it conducts periodic national surveys of learning achievement of students of Classes III, V and VIII. NCERT conducted three rounds of National Achievement Surveys (NAS) so far, which reveal improvement in learning achievement of students in various subjects. Under the centrally sponsored scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), States/Union Territories are supported for improvement in learning. States/UTs were provided guidelines to lay down learning outcomes for elementary classes. NCERT has also laid down learning outcomes and indicators for improvement in quality. 19 States have also set learning outcomes. Under SSA, 'Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat' is supported for improvement in reading comprehension and mathematics in classes I & II. Under SSA Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAA) programme is also supported for improvement in maths and science at upper primary level.

(d): Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) in its 59th meeting held on 6th June, 2012 constituted a sub committee for assessment of implementation of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) in the context of no-detention provision in the RTE Act, 2009. The Committee submitted its Report in August, 2014, which inter-alia recommended a review of No-Detention Policy and its implementation in a phased manner. The CABE, in its 63rd Meeting held on 19th August, 2015 deliberated the report, pursuant to which, all State Governments were requested to formally send their views to the Ministry. Another Sub Committee of CABE under the Chairpersonship of Hon"ble Minister of Education, Rajasthan has been constituted on 26.10.2015 to review the feedback received from States and share their report by January 2016.
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